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Omaha Lands in Nebraska

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S. Rep. No. 1357, 51st Cong., 1st Sess. (1890)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 13, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MANDERSON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5974 and S. 1101.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5974) entitled "A bill extending the time of payment to purchasers of land of the Omaha tribe of Indians in Nebraska, and for other purposes," and bill S. 1101 on the same subject, have had the same and diverse papers and petitions concerning the matter under consideration, and report the bill H. R. 5974 back favorably with amendments and recommend its passage, and report the bill S. 1101 back adversely and recommend its indefinite postponement.

The amendments suggested by your committee to the House bill consist in requiring all interest to be paid over to the Indians, and distributed by the agent pro rata, annually, in order to enable them to purchase needed machinery, tools, implements of husbandry, and to make improvements on their farms. They having taken lands in severalty since the passage of the act of August 7, 1882, this extension of financial aid seems wise and just.

Your committee likewise suggest that the words "of August seventh, eighteen hundred and eighty-two," be inserted after the word "act," in line 17 of the bill, and that the words "above mentioned" in the same line be stricken out.

Your committee adopts the House report as properly explaining the objects of the bill, as follows:

The Committee on Indian Affairs having had under consideration H. R. 5974, "A bill extending the time of payment to purchasers of land of the Omaha tribe of Indians in Nebraska, and for other purposes," respectfully recommend the passage of the bill, with an amendment.

The relief sought by this bill is to allow the purchasers of land on the Omaha Indian Reservation, who purchased this land under and by virtue of an act of Congress approved August 7, 1882, to extend the time for making the first payment of principal until December 1, 1894. These lands were sold in 1883, at a time when real estate was at its highest point in Nebraska, and the land was sold at prices averaging more than \$12 an acre. The purchasers under the law were compelled to erect buildings and improve the land. This has been done in every case. As under the act the money paid by the purchasers is covered into the Treasury and the Omaha Indians receive only the interest thereon, your committee deem it wise to allow the principal to remain in the hands of the purchasers instead of lying idle in the Treasury of the United States. There is no question but that the principal is well secured.

Section 2 of the act allows an entryman who purchased less than 160 acres of land to buy at the appraised value additional lands so that the amount purchased shall not in the aggregate exceed 160 acres as provided in the original act, the lands so purchased to be contiguous to those already secured, and the terms of payment to be made the same as in the original act provided.

This is an amendment recommended by the committee, but desired by the settlers, and with this amendment the passage of the bill is recommended.